

Called to Preach:

Notes on William H. Willimon's Interpretation of Karl Barth's Theology of Proclamation Vocation

(An abstract)

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This paper aims to introduce Karl Barth's theological understanding of the vocation of Proclamation through the interpretation of Barth by William H. Willimon. For Barth, listening to God's Word makes the proclamation of God's Word possible. However, Barth inclines to ignore the positive contribution of human language and the congregational context in the proclamation of God's Word. According to Barth, it is God alone who turns the proclaimed word of the preacher into the Word of God. For Willimon, Barth's conception of the revealed Word in the incarnation of Jesus Christ points to the importance of the embodiment of proclamation in human language and within a congregational context. Therefore, the preacher should follow the model of Christ's incarnation to preach God's Word in specific human language for a specific congregational context so as to transform and shape the church and the world.